

# BLOOD & THUNDER

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## FEMINIST STEREOTYPES: A RESPONSE TO LIZ LAUTARD

Dear Editor

I would like to thank Liz Lautard for confirming Society's stereotype of the feminist. Her summary of feminism's agenda was the narrowest and shallowest discourse on the subject I have ever read. I assume it was written to "stir up the troops", to light a fire under women by informing them of just how oppressed they are, in case they hadn't noticed. Many of the comments left no room for the diversity that could be present in the feminist community. Others were just misleading and unfounded.

A few examples:

She refers to the "socially acceptable role of wife and mother". Why is it, then, that women say that they are just a wife and mother? It is assumed that a woman who has no "real" job is either incapable of that much, or has been oppressed by Society or her husband, and needs to be enlightened. To be "just" a mother and a wife is to have failed at attaining the "more" which any self-respecting woman must have.

She wants "females to stop being the medical profession's guinea pigs." There is a strong movement by women

in the US for equal representation in drug testing and health studies, and more funding for studies about women's health issues. I think this is a justifiable concern because men and women often react differently to drugs and other medical treatments. I'm sure these women would be delighted to be the aforementioned "guinea pigs".

She thinks "Women are demanding that Society stop blaming the mother" and "the victim". She neglects to take into account the times that the mother or the "victim" ARE the ones at fault. In her view, the woman is NEVER at fault. This simply isn't true. The examples I know of are too lengthy to go into here, but if you really want to know about them, give me a call. Then there's this "No means No" idea. When these posters were up around campus, there was a blank to fill in after the longest list of all the things that mean No; some frustrated and confused student had filled one in to read "Yes means No". My own suggestion (not very snappy, but anyway) is "Getting your sorry drunken butt out of there means No." This may be harsh, but it's more clearcut than "Everything means No". And more responsible.

## PROGRESSIVE TAXATION: PIGEON'S RIGHT WING SLAMMED

To the Editor:

I wish to comment on the article "Progressive Taxation Stinks" by Andrew B. Skaling and James R. Kierstead in the March 4, 1994 edition of your paper. The authors impatiently dismiss those who advocate the idea of a progressive tax system as "non-economists" who propose a scheme "devoid of reality". As a non-economist, I wish to share with Skaling and Kierstead and your readers a different look at "reality" in the hopes of setting the record straight.

The authors contend that those in the upper management of a company are the only individuals who work the longer or

harder than anyone else and that the rest of the employees and the workforce in general put in the necessary 40 hour week and nothing beyond that. Hence, the wealthy should be rewarded with a relatively low tax rate on their six figure incomes and the rest can pay the bills. The blunt and brutal reality is that more and more employees at all levels of a company who do not have six figure incomes are working longer hours and they do it because that is what is expected. You work a longer day just to keep your job, not to advance up the corporate ladder. I worked in Toronto for three years and I experienced and observed this reality first hand. Companies

are expected to do more with less and those who still have jobs are compelled to do the jobs of two or three people. The "Focus" section of this past week-end's *Globe and Mail* articulates this reality quite clearly. Perhaps Skaling and Kierstead may wish to put down their Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations* to take a look at the article in question.

In reference to taxation policy, the authors propose one based on the "trickle down" theory of economics. Namely, if the wealthy are permitted the opportunity to spend their money that would otherwise be taxed, then the cash would trickle down through the system to the rest of society and benefit all. This has been tried and has not worked. It simply made the wealthy even more wealthy and leaving the rest to pay the bills and no farther ahead. Or, as John Kenneth Galbraith (yes, an economist) commented, "The 1980's doctrine that if the horse is fed amply with oats, some will pass through to the road for the sparrows will not stand as the great economic theories of time."

I can go on at length about taxation policy but suffice it to say that "non-economists" have as much to say about taxation policy and economic issues as those who call themselves economists. Skaling and Kierstead do not have a monopoly on economic opinion, or reality for that matter.

## VICKI GRAY MEMORIAL AWARD

Dear Madam,

I shall be grateful if you will publicize the Dr. Vicki Gray Memorial Award, which is to be awarded annually, starting this September. The Calendar description is as follows:

Field: Women's Studies. Value \$650

Number: 1 Duration: 1 year  
Conditions: Awarded to a Fredericton campus student engaged in full- or part-time study who has completed a minimum of 60 credit hours and a maximum of 102 credit hours, and has a continuing interest in and commitment to Women's Studies. The recipient normally will have completed the introductory course in Women's Studies and be pursuing

a minor in Women's Studies or a comparable course of studies. A minimum grade point average of 3.0 in the last 30 credit hours undertaken is required.

Apply: Co-ordinator of Women's Studies, UNB by April 15.

Awarding Agency: A Selection Committee composed of the Co-ordinator of the Women's Studies Programme, a representative of the Estate of Dr. Vicki Gray, and two other members of the Women's Studies Programme.

Donor: The Estate and Friends of Dr. Vicki Gray.

I strongly urge any students who consider that they are eligible for this award to apply as soon as possible. I shall be pleased to receive applications or nominations and to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Gillian Thompson  
Professor, Department of History

## HOLIDAY FOOD SERVICE AT UNB NONEXISTENT

To whom it may concern,

I just thought I should write this letter to the Brunswickan so that maybe, just maybe, some of the powers-that-be would read it. I have a complaint to make about the way INTERNATIONAL students, and other CANADIAN students who do not live within the Maritimes, are treated in UNB residences, not by fellow students, but by the decision-makers. When I decided to move into residence I took a lot of things into consideration and here are some of them:

(A) When an international student first gets to Fredericton, sometimes it will only be a week before school starts and there isn't enough time to look for a place to live... so reserving a place in residence is by far the best solution.

(B) Most of us come here and do not know what food to cook (i.e. we cannot find food from home) so we think maybe residence will provide the balanced meals all the time.

Imagine my shock when I discovered that there is no food service in UNB residences even for a one day holiday like

Thanksgiving day! Everyone is fully aware that Beaver Foods, or whoever serves residence food, makes quite a lot of money from students... and yet they cannot afford to continue food services over a short break. I know it's not anybody's fault that some of us cannot afford to go home but it's ridiculous to expect a person to pay for airfare just for such a short break. I would like to know why we pay such amounts and yet we have to find somewhere to eat when everybody else goes home? Not everyone can afford to go home for short breaks like the March Break. I think whoever it is that is responsible can afford to get a place like McConnel Hall, and cook for those students in residence who stay behind. I bet there were more than 50 students who stayed behind in residence for this March Break.

Please be considerate and remember this University has different people who also have to eat even if they cannot go home for Thanksgiving. Why is it that people with the powers to make decisions at this university do not have any regard or respect whatsoever for international students???

Concerned Student from Abroad

## SUB EXPANSION: NO CAMPAIGN RESPONDS

To the Editor:

About the sub expansion referendum of March 4, 1994: We of the NO sub committee of the No Forces would like to congratulate the Student Union on

their victory in the SUB expansion referendum. We would like to respond to the recent article regarding our small but reasonably effective campaign.

Our counter-intelligence subcommittee overheard several prominent student union officials discussing the *misleading* aspects of our propaganda. We are happy to see that the student union is now officially admitting that enrollment is projected to decrease (SU Budget Released, March 4), a fact that was clearly stated in our campaign literature. Also, as per our warning that the fee could increase at any time, the ballot stated that the fee is to be pegged to increases in several economic indicators.

Our counter-intelligence subcommittee witnessed the activities of the Student Union *Thought Police* in action. Several reports from our *in the field operatives* indicated that Jamie Van Raalte (SU president) and councilman Heidi Hawkins were seen with a handful of censored campaign literature. And since we were the only ones with the propaganda, we can only assume these posters were removed with *extreme prejudice*.

Is democracy truly dead at UNB? Consider this: no formal debate on SUB expansion, tearing down of campaign literature, and massive amounts of student money spent on a one-sided campaign. YOU DECIDE!

Yours sincerely,  
Chad and Andrew  
Co-chairs of the No Forces

## MATHEMATICS DROP-IN HELP CENTRE

January - April 1994

The Department of Mathematics & Statistics will operate a drop-in help centre at various locations on campus. The centre will provide free tutoring for mathematics courses (including upper level courses) and will be staffed by graduate students, Yongyi Bi and Xiubin Xu.

MONDAY:	1:00 - 5:00pm	C307A
TUESDAY:	1:00 - 5:00pm	H303
WEDNESDAY:	1:00 - 5:00pm	C307A
THURSDAY:	1:00 - 5:00pm	N12

The MATH HELP CENTRE operated through the Dept. of Extension at the Wu Centre continues to offer free tutoring for first-year courses on a by-appointment basis.

## Computer Clearout One-Day Only

Sat. Mar. 19th, 1994  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

We are upgrading our training centre and company workstations and have a variety of 386 and 486 demo computer systems in excellent condition starting as low as \$500.00. Over thirty (30) 486 computer systems to choose from.

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